GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2274
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
LINKING OF RIVERS
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to study about acute shortage of water in the coming five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether linking of rivers is the solution for problem of water crisis in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has taken a decision over the Action Plans One and Two of the River Linking Project;

(f) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the project is likely to be completed in the stipulated time; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The planning for development of Water Resources for meeting the growing needs for various purposes is under taken by the respective State Governments. However, the MoWR constituted the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development.(NCIWRD). NCIWRD in its report has indicated the projections for water requirement for various purposes upto the year 2010, 2025 and 2050 as under.

Use	Year		
(in billion cubic metre)	2010	2025	2050
Irrigation	557	611	807
Domestic	43	62	111
Industries	37	67	81
Others	73	103	181
Total	710	843	1180

(c)&(d) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas. The Inter-linking proposals under NPP envisage additional benefits of 25 million ha. of irrigation from surface water, 10 million ha. by increased use of ground water and generation of 34 Thousand MW of power apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, water supply, salinity and pollution control etc.

(e) & (f) The Task Force on Interlinking of River (ILR) submitted Action Plan-I during April, 2003 giving outline of time schedule for

completion of Feasibility Reports, Detailed Project Reports, Estimated Cost, Implementation Schedule, concrete benefits and Advantages of the Project. Action Plan-II giving alternative options for funding and execution of the projects and suggestions on methods for cost recovery etc. was also submitted during April, 2004. Appropriate follow up action has been taken on the recommendations given by Task Force in respect of Guidance on norms of appraisal, bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States and prioritization of links. The stage has not come for taking decision on the remaining recommendations of the Task Force.

(g) &(h) The implementation of ILR project depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with the neighbouring countries.